

Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel claim 1 without prejudice. Please add new claims 2-5 as shown below in the List of Claims.

List of Claims

1. Cancelled.
2. (New) A silica glass characterized by the following specific properties:
 - a) light internal transmittance in the wave length between 185nm and 193nm higher than 85%;
 - b) light internal transmittance in the wave length between 193nm and 2600nm higher than 99.5%;
 - c) light internal transmittance in the wave length between 2600nm and 2730nm higher than 99%;
 - d) light internal transmittance in the wave length between 2730nm and 3200nm higher than 85%;
 - e) no streak, material of class 4 or better according to the rule DIN ISO 10110-4;
 - f) no strip;
 - g) no signal in the shadography (no shadow or intensity change);and wherein said silica glass is made by a sol gel process.
3. (New) The silica glass of claim 2, wherein said sol gel process includes a step in which said sol gel is thermally treated at a temperature of 800°C-1500°C to increase its density.
4. (New) The silica gel of claim 3, wherein thermal treatment is carried out in a controlled atmosphere containing traces of water.
5. (New) The silica gel of claim 4, wherein said sol gel process further comprises the steps of:
 - a) preparing a sol from a silicon alcoxide;
 - b) allowing or inducing the hydrolysis of the sol prepared in step a);
 - c) drying the gel obtained in step b).